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Editorials

Elements of Blame

THE PRESS and the police must shows one of those times when police President Kennedy.

The press has certain privileges because it represents the eyes and ears those on the scene. of everyone. Sometimes it should be press freedom endangers a greater pubic responsibility. Such an occasion as he movement of the President's assas-

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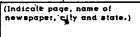
share the blame for the shooting of officials would have been justified in Lee Oswald. And in saying this, The excluding the press or any other non-Times Herald recognizes the fact that officially connected person, complaints its reporters and photographers were notwithstanding. It could well have been present, eager to cover the event of accomplished, even had the press been the moving of the accused assassin of present, with secrecy or with a pool arrangement or through some other means which restricted the number of

Here we sympathize with the inallowed where others are shut out. But tentions of Dallas police chief Jesse it must recognize those times when Curry. Chief Curry is rapidly becoming the national scapegoat for the miscalculation which allowed the killing of Oswald to happen. (Note the New York' Times editorial reproduced on this page.)

> Chief Curry has been a good chief for the Dallas Police Department, a dedicated, able career man. He is still a good chief. His actions Sunday were Date: almost certainly motivated by the Edition: best of intentions. He has shown the Author: greatest consideration for the press in his previous years, he was attempting to accommodate the press in announcing the time of Oswald's transfer. This time his consideration reached a tragic extreme.

Of course there is also the thought that the members of the police force guarding Oswald were themselves at fault in overlooking the possibility of

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disaster in the person of Jack Ruby, Ruby was well known to most Dallas policemen in the station, he had been a frequenter of the station for years and he was much in evidence from the time Oswald was arrested and taken there to jail. If he was present also at the transfer of Oswald and was allowed, or tolerated, without any official reason except prior recognition and a feeling that "we know him," then the blame is heavy upon those officers.

These are elements of blame which both the press and the police must recognize and, in the future, take into consideration.

The lesson came hard.

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